



## Alabama Community College System *Application for a New Instructional Program*

### A. General Information:

1. Name of Institution: H. Councill Trenholm State Community College
2. Program Title: Respiratory Therapy Prefix: RPT
3. Date of Application Submission: August, 2016
4. Proposed Program Implementation Date: June 2017
5. Degree Requested AAS CER:            STC            CIP Code 51.0908
6. Marketing Name: Respiratory Therapy
7. Options (if any): N/A
8. Location: Campus H.C. Trenholm State Community College Trenholm Campus  
Instructional Site H.C. Trenholm State Community College Trenholm Campus  
Off-Campus Site N/A  
Clinical/Industrial Site Service Area Healthcare Facilities  
Agencies N/A
9. Interactive Distance Learning Delivery:

Substantial	Yes	%	Partial	Yes	%	No
				X	25	

### B. Institutional Contact:

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Program Director or Department Head

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President

C. Program Objectives and Content

1. List objectives of the program as precisely as possible. The objectives should address specific needs the program will meet (institutional, societal, and employability) contiguous with expected learning outcomes and achievements. This is an extremely important part of the proposal. **Objectives must lend themselves to subsequent review and assessment of program accomplishments.**

Objective 1: Begin an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy program to increase the healthcare program offerings to students in our service area.

Objective 2: Hire appropriately credentialed and competent instructors to provide the students with the educational requirements and skills necessary to succeed as a respiratory therapist.

Objective 3: Provide the healthcare community with qualified, highly skilled, entry level therapists proficient in all technical skills required in carrying out respiratory care.

Objective 4: Obtain accreditation of the RT program through the *Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care* (CoARC), with a goal of achieving accreditation within three (3) years of the program start date.

Objective 5: Demonstrate proficiency by which 80% of graduates of the RT program will successfully pass the entry level certified respiratory therapy (CRT) examination.

Objective 6: Obtain contractual agreements for the clinical component of the RT program arranged by Trenholm State Community College with local healthcare providers, which may include some or all of the following: hospitals, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies.

Objective 7: Provide a highly skilled workforce in which students will demonstrate the ability to assess, plan, implement and evaluate the appropriate care needed by clients.

Objective 8: Show sustainability by which 80% of graduates of the RT program will be employed in field (or in a related field of study) within six months of graduation.

Objective 9: Demonstrate program success through 90% positive graduate evaluations completed and returned by employers.

Objective 10: Establish an advisory committee which will be convened two times each year to provide workforce expertise and guidance for program growth and development.

2. How will this program be related to other programs at your institution?

The addition of a RT program will provide students increased options in healthcare careers to meet Alabama's workforce needs. General education courses required for the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy are readily available to students seeking this degree and are much the same as the other health services program general education requirements.

- Identify any existing program, option, concentration, or track that this program will replace.

The Respiratory Therapy program will not replace any existing healthcare program. The proposed RT program will be supported by already existing successful Allied Health Programs at Trenholm Community College.

- Is it likely that this program will reduce enrollments in other programs at your institution? If so, please explain.

There is no anticipated reduction in the enrollment at Trenholm State Community College due to the implementation of an RT program. The addition of a RT program will provide students with increased healthcare career options and the health services programs are easily filled. Student's healthcare career interests and workforce needs are the driving force for the establishment of this program.

- List new courses that will be added to your curriculum specifically for this program. Indicate course number, title, and credit hour value for each course.

PRE PROFESSIONAL MAJOR COURSES			
Course Area	Course Name	Area	Credit Hours
RPT 210	Clinical Practical	Area V	2
RPT 211	Introduction to Respiratory Care	Area V	2
RPT 212	Fundamentals of Respiratory Care I	Area V	4
RPT 213	Anatomy & Physiology for Respiratory Care Provider	Area V	3
RPT 214	Pharmacology for Respiratory Care Provider	Area V	2
RPT 220	Clinical Practice II	Area V	2
RPT 221	Pathology for Respiratory Care Provider I	Area V	3
RPT 222	Fundamentals of Respiratory Care II	Area V	4
RPT 223	Acid Base Regulations & Arterial Blood Gas Analysis	Area V	2
RPT 230	Clinical Practice III	Area V	2
RPT 231	Pathology for the Respiratory Care Provider II	Area V	3
RPT 232	Diagnostic Procedures for Respiratory Care Provider	Area V	2
RPT 233	Special Procedures for the Respiratory Care Provider	Area V	2
RPT 234	Mechanical Ventilation for the Respiratory Care Provider	Area V	4
RPT 240	Clinical Practice IV (Internship)	Area V	4
RPT 241	Pulmonary Rehabilitation & Home Care	Area V	2
RPT 242	Perinatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care	Area V	3
RPT 243	Computer Applications for Respiratory Care Provider	Area V	2
RPT 244	Critical Care Considerations for Respiratory Care Provider	Area V	2
RPT 254	Patient Assessment Tech for Respiratory Care Provider	Area V	2

Total = 52

- Program Completion Requirements:

- Credit hours required in major (skills emphasis); 52
- Credit hours in institutional general education or core curriculum; 23
- Credit hours in required or free electives; 1
- Credit hours for each option, concentration, specialization, track; and
- Total credit hours required for completion. 76

Describe any additional requirements such as a comprehensive examination, practicum or internship, some of which may carry credit hours included in the list above.

Of the 52 RT program credit hours, 10 are clinical practicum hours, which equates to 750 clock hours of required student experience in a supervised respiratory care setting. These practicum hours provide students with the opportunity for clinical training in various techniques used in the diagnosis and treatment of patients who suffer from disorders of the cardiopulmonary system. Through patient contact the student is able to develop general patient assessment and communication skills, gain exposure to the role of the RT as a member of the healthcare team, demonstrate knowledge concerning the functioning of respiratory care equipment including mechanical ventilators, exhibit the correct use of pharmacological agents, and the safe and effective delivery of respiratory care procedures & therapeutic techniques with an in-depth understanding of the pathophysiological disease processes. Students who have completed the Associate in Applied Science Degree in RT from Trenholm State Community College will be eligible to sit for the Certified Respiratory Therapist examination which qualifies candidates for state licensure.

Attach the Associate Degree and/or Certificate curricula by semester to this proposal as **APPENDIX A.**

7. If there is a recognized specialized accreditation agency for this program, please identify the agency and explain why you do or do not plan to seek accreditation. Indicate if graduation from an accredited program is a requirement to sit for a required licensure exam.

The Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) accredits respiratory care educational programs. A minimum of an associate's degree with a certificate of completion from a program accredited by CoARC is required for an individual to take the Certified Respiratory Therapist examination. The exam is administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). The CRT credential is required to obtain state licensure to practice as a respiratory therapist.

8. If passage of a licensure examination is required for employment in the proposed field, identify the examination and the administering body. Also, if a licensure examination is required, an objective relating to passage rates should be developed by the institution.

All of the United States, except Alaska & Hawaii, require respiratory therapists to obtain a license. In order to be eligible for a state license, a graduate must earn the Certified Respiratory Therapist title (CRT) from the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). All graduates from accredited programs are eligible to take the certification exam.

After successfully passing the entry level CRT examination, graduates have three years to attempt a two part advanced practitioner examination also administered by the NBRC. The exam consists of separate written and clinical simulation components. Successful completion of this assessment earns the student the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential.

Trenholm State Community College's objective will be that at least 80% of the program graduates will pass the Entry Level Certified Respiratory Therapist Examination on their first attempt and that 80% of program graduates will have earned the RRT credential within the 3 year time limit.

9. Identify specific Alabama senior institutions which will articulate the transfer of skills-emphasis credits for this program.

Courses completed at Trenholm State Community College will transfer to public four-year colleges or universities within Alabama via the Statewide Transfer Articulation and Reporting System (STARS) network; which is easily accessible to students on the Trenholm State website and in the college catalog.

D. Program Admissions Requirements, Enrollment Projections and Completion Projections

1. Meet all the general admission requirements of Trenholm State
  2. Submit a Trenholm State application to the Admissions Office.
  3. Submit a RPT Program application to the RPT Program Director along with unofficial college transcripts by the specified deadline.
  4. Possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
  5. Have grades of "C" or better in prerequisite general required courses to be considered for the program. All designated prerequisite general required courses must be completed prior to beginning the Respiratory Therapy major courses in fall semester.
  6. Attain a minimum of 19 on the ACT and submit that score to the Admissions Office. It is the responsibility of each applicant to insure that his or her application is complete and that all prerequisite general education required courses have been completed.
  7. Meet the essential functions or technical standards required for RPT.
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2. Describe the methodology for determining enrollment projections. If a survey of student interest was conducted, attach a copy of the survey instrument with a **summary** of results (how many, to whom, response rate) as **APPENDIX B**. Do not submit copies of the individual survey responses.

**Due to the number of college level prerequisites that are needed to apply for the proposed RPT program, we did not conduct a survey of high school students.**

**A total of 220 students in Trenholm State's service area were identified through a general interest questionnaire that was placed on the College website:**

<i>Information Source</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
<b>Trenholm State College survey</b>	<b>A general questionnaire inquiring about the interest in an RPT program at Trenholm State was placed on the College website. Two hundred twenty potential students responded to the survey and 179 expressed interest if the program was offered at Trenholm State.</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>220 Potential Students</b>

3. Provide a realistic estimate of the costs of the program.

ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM						
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	TOTAL
FACULTY*	\$89,016	\$89,016	\$113,399	\$ 202,415	\$202,415	\$696,261
LIBRARY	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$127,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$127,000
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER (supplies)	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$90,000
TOTAL	\$271,016	\$104,016	\$128,399	\$212,415	\$212,415	\$928,261

\*Includes fringe

\*Additional faculty salaries should be shown in all five years. (1.5 in 2019-20; 2.5 in 2020-21 and 2021-22)

SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT						
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	TOTAL
INTERNAL REALLOCATIONS	\$216,390	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$216,390
EXTRAMURAL*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION	\$54,626	\$132,990	\$206,778	\$232,804	\$244,244	\$871,442
TOTAL	\$271,016	\$132,990	\$206,778	\$232,804	\$244,244	\$1,087,832

\*Extramural funds from \_\_\_\_\_

ENROLLMENT AND DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS						
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-YEAR AVERAGE
TOTAL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT	5	13	20	20	22	16
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	5	8	10	10	12	9
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	0	4	7	10	10	4-YEAR AVERAGE 7.75

E. Program Need Justification

1. Will the program satisfy a clearly documented need?

**In response to the increasing local demand for additional healthcare offerings, Trenholm State Community College requested and acquired information from the healthcare workforce across the state as recently as June 2016. We were initially unaware of the manner in which some of the healthcare facilities advertise positions for Respiratory Therapists. Some facilities will post one position online for several openings in Respiratory Therapy. Currently there are a total of 23 positions posted for the facilities at Baptist South Hospital, UAB Hospital, Jackson Hospital, East Alabama Hospital and DCH Regional Medical Center.**

**Employability**

**According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, during the ten year period from 2014 to 2024, there will be an increase of twelve percent (12%) in demand for Respiratory Therapist nationally, a twenty-four percent (24%) increase in demand in Alabama, a twenty-nine (29%) increase in Florida, and a twenty-five percent (25%) increase in Mississippi. The number of job openings projected nationally by the year 2017 will be 125,600, while includes regional openings as follows: Alabama = 2,170, Florida = 8,270. And Mississippi = 1,550.**

**Health Industries are a major employer in Alabama with one in ten workers employed in healthcare. Projected needs in Alabama for many healthcare positions exceed the national projected rates. In fact, ten of the twenty fastest growing occupations are concentrated in health services. There is an expected employment change, 2014-24, of 14,900 in the occupation of respiratory therapists.**

2. If the program duplicates or closely resembles another program already offered in the state, can this duplication be justified?

**The other institutions within the Alabama Community College System that offer this program are Faulkner, Calhoun, Shelton State, Wallace-Dothan and Wallace-Hanceville; all of which are 115 or more miles from Trenholm State Community College.**

3. What characteristics of the identified need require that it be met by a new program rather than an existing program? (Note: In explaining how the proposed program meets this criterion, an institution may refer to the criterion on collaboration and develop a response that addresses both criteria simultaneously). For purpose of this criterion, duplication is defined as the same or similar six-digit CIP Code and award level in the Master Academic Inventory. Institutions should consult with Department of Postsecondary Education staff during the ISPA phase of application development to determine what existing programs are considered duplicative of the proposed program.

**Area healthcare providers have identified respiratory therapy as a high demand, high growth field. The need for trained employees in this field cannot be duplicated in other training programs or allied health degree plans.**

4. Based on your research on the employment market for graduates of this program, indicate the total projected job openings (including both growth and replacement demands) in your State Board of Education approved service area as well as the state at large. These job openings should represent positions that require graduates from a program such as the one proposed.

## Projected Job Openings

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
<b>College Service Area</b>	17	23	24	27	30	121
<b>State</b>	299	322	349	389	436	1,795

*\* Local data based on survey information obtained. State data based on Occupational Profile-America's Career Info-Net Projections 2006-2016. Where survey data was not available, a projection of 2.13% growth as reported in the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Occupational Projections 2014-2024 was made.*

5. Give a brief description of the methodology used to determine the projected job openings (such variables as (a) assurance of adequate employer surveys, (b) business/industry markets, and (c) response rate. Cite all relevant sources. Whenever possible, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations employment data/projections should be utilized.

**The college used the following Labor Market Sources in determining projected job openings:**

- **Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Statewide Occupational Projections**
- **US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook**

6. If the program is primarily intended to meet needs other than employment needs, present a brief rationale.

**The Respiratory Therapy Program is in response to employer demand and labor market projections.**

7. If similar programs are available at other institutions in the state, will any type of program collaboration be utilized? Why or why not? What specific efforts have been made to collaborate with institutions to meet the need for this program? Address qualitative, cost, and access considerations of any collaborations that were considered.

**Due to the local, regional and statewide shortage of Respiratory Therapists, the workforce demands for this specialized training, and the lack of any other area provider; workforce needs within this portion of the Alabama Region cannot be met by the other programs that exist across the state. Respiratory Therapy Education is not as effectively shared across institutions as it is a more manipulative skill that is best taught by live instruction.**

8. Will any type of distance education technology be utilized in the delivery of the program on your main campus or to remote sites? If not, why?

**Due to the lab and clinical components of the RT Program, it will not be offered entirely as a distance education program. Courses may be offered as hybrid courses with theory components completed on-line.**

9. Address the quality, access and cost considerations of using distance technology in the program.

**Data indicate that most community college students work at least part-time and have family responsibilities; therefore, providing local access to educational options in the area of residence as well as distance education technologies are critical to student success. Didactic content in RT education can be delivered using a distance education modality; however the manipulative skills need to be demonstrated**



and evaluated in a hands-on environment to ensure quality instruction. The college has the capacity for multiple delivery options from traditional classroom and lab delivery to online or web-based instruction to facilitate these needs.

F. Program Resource Requirements

1. Number of currently employed faculty who teach in the program:

Full-time 0 Part-time 0

Attach a synopsis of the qualifications (degrees, experience, etc.) of each existing faculty member to this proposal as **APPENDIX C**. Do not attach entire curriculum vitae. This should be no more than one paragraph per faculty.

2. Number of additional faculty who will be employed to teach in the program during the first five years:

Full-time 2 Part-time \_\_\_\_\_  
Full-time \_\_\_\_\_ Part-time 1

3. If the qualifications of new faculty to be hired differ from requirements stated in Postsecondary Faculty Credentials, indicate such.

**New faculty must adhere to the RT accrediting body. CoARC requires that the program employ two full-time core faculty members. Both the Program and Clinical Education Coordinator(s) must be a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) and hold such professional license or certificate as is required by the state in which he or she is employed. Each must also possess at least a baccalaureate degree and have a minimum of four years experience as a Registered Respiratory Therapist, of which at least two (2) years should have been spent in clinical respiratory care and at least two (2) years in a teaching position in an accredited respiratory care program. Formal teacher training/experience is recommended.**

4. Briefly describe available and additional support staff who will be provided for the program.

**The Respiratory Therapy program will become part of the college's Health Services Division and will be supported by existing clerical staff.**

5. Describe any special equipment that is necessary for this program, indicating what is currently available, what will be added, and the cost of additional equipment.

<b>Oxygen delivery equipment</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Mechanical ventilator</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>Arterial Blood Gas Analyzer w/ CO-ox (refurbished)</b>	<b>18,000</b>
<b>Pulmonary Function Laboratory Equipment</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Respiratory treatment equipment incl. IPPB, CPAP, IVP</b>	<b>12,000</b>

**Intubation manikins – adult, pediatric, neonatal**

**15,000**

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**\$102,000.**

**This equipment is not currently in the inventory at TSCC and will need to be purchased through normal bidding procedures.**

6. Describe facilities for the program, indicating what is currently available and any necessary renovations or additional facilities that would be added. Provide a cost estimate for any renovation or additions. If clinical sites are required, provide signed agreements between the institution and the host facility. At a minimum, the total number of slots should equal the projected number of students cited above.

**Trenholm State Community College plans to house the RPT program in Building H on the Trenholm Campus which currently houses the Medical Radiology and Diagnostic Ultrasound programs. Ample classroom and laboratory space will be available as well as dedicated computer labs. The College has well established clinical relationships at all area hospitals and healthcare facilities for current healthcare educational programs (Nursing, Nursing Assisting, Medical Assisting/Medical Billing and Coding, Dental Assisting, Radiology, Ultrasound and EMS/Paramedic). Preliminary discussions with local employers indicate a commitment to clinical sites for the program. The proposed RPT program has a special endorsement and continued support from Baptist Health (APPENDIX D)**

7. Provide an indication of the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program. Describe how any deficiencies will be remedied, including the cost of such remedies.

The library contains a diverse collection of medical and allied health resources. Through effective collection development between the library and allied health faculty, resources are purchased to support the needs of the programs. The library strives to purchase the most relevant books and resources to assist the faculty in effectively teaching their curricula. In addition, these collection ensure student success in finding relevant information for research topics. Although collection development in the area of respiratory therapy has not been done, the library collection in allied health field contains many books that will be helpful to the respiratory therapy program. The chart below is an example of books and ebooks in the various nursing and allied health programs here at the College.

<b>Collection</b>	<b>Number of Resources</b>
Nursing Assisting Collection	Books – 242 Ebooks – 317 EBSCO Ebooks - 442
Practical Nursing Collection	Books – 56 Ebooks – 53 EBSCO Ebooks – 10
Medical Assisting Collection	Books – 42 Ebooks – 13 EBSCO – 3
Physical Therapy Collection	Books – 35 Ebooks – 34 EBSCO - 25

The library also has several databases which contain current information on the topic respiratory therapy. These databases contain the most up-to-date information on respiratory therapy published in leading academic and scholarly research journals and magazines. They are accessible to students and faculty 24/7 by logging into the library's homepage from either on campus or off campus. Off campus access requires a username and password which is furnished to the faculty and students at the beginning of each semester. These databases include:

<b>Database Name</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
Associates Programs Source Plus	This database is designed specifically for the research needs of students at two-year colleges, and provides comprehensive coverage of the most relevant Associates Program level content. It contains a wide range of essential full-text resources to help students succeed in their chosen field.
CINAHL	The CINAHL Database. The Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, this database provides indexing for more than 3,075 nursing and allied health journals. CINAHL databases are the most widely-used and respected research tools for nurses, students and allied health professionals around the globe.
Films On Demand	Infobase is an educational solutions company providing award-winning digital reference content to the school and library markets, with research databases, eBook collections, streaming video, and eLearning Modules spanning a variety of core subject areas and grade levels.
Primal Pictures	Primal Pictures, the world's most medically accurate and detailed 3D graphic rendering of human anatomy. Primal Pictures 3D anatomy model, built using real scan data from the visible human project, has been carefully segmented to create an unparalleled level of detail and accuracy. All of the content within this program has been verified by qualified anatomists and by a team of external experts for each body area.
Proquest	ProQuest Career & Technical Education is the definitive source for vocational information. The database includes nearly 600 titles, with more than 500 available in full text for quick access to research on virtually any technical topic.
OVID	Ovid helps researchers, librarians, clinicians, and other healthcare professionals find important medical information so that they can make critical decisions to improve patient care, enhance ongoing research, and fuel new discoveries. Ovid offers a market-leading medical research platform of premium aggregated content and productivity tools that make it easy to quickly search information and make informed decisions on patient care, quality, and clinical outcomes.

The library will seek funding from both state and federal funds to order and purchase resources in the respiratory therapy field. The cost of purchasing new resources for the respiratory therapy program is estimated at \$15,000. Once funds have been allocated to the library we will seek collection development opportunities with the respiratory therapy faculty. This collaboration will result in the purchase of the most up-to-date resources in the respiratory therapy field. Once resources have been ordered they will be processed into the library and added to the respiratory therapy collection.

G. Costs and Financial Support of the Program

1. This should only include the **additional** costs that will be incurred, not current costs. All sources and amounts of funds for program support should be indicated.

The College projects the total additional costs of the new Respiratory Therapy Program to be \$928,261. The College will utilize Title III-B funding to seed the program's first year in the amount of \$271,016. The enrollment projections for the periods subsequent to the first year completely support the operations of the program as well as provide excess revenues to the College.